

# Transfiguration of Our Lord Church

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

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Parish Staff

Fr. Carlos Sierra Tobon, **Pastor**

Fr. Sami Farid Mikhail Bakhit, **Associate Pastor**

Msgr. Fady Boktor: **Pastor of Holy Family Coptic Catholic Church**

Mrs. Rhoda Marcoccia, **Administrative Assistant**



*Feast of the Holy Family*

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

**The Holy Family** - A meditation on the Holy Family might help us recall that theirs is not the only holy family. Family life is vocational: it is a calling from God. Every act, every decision within the life of the family, when done with great love, is a real symbol of Christ's love. During this holy season, let us recall our holy families and reach out to them with ever more generous love. Let us reach out to those without families, recalling the words of the mature Jesus who redrew the lines of family: "those who hear and do the will of God are my mother and my brothers" (Luke 8:21). The love we learn and practice in families is ultimately the love that ought to govern our way of relating to all people. (Tim Muldoon-Loyola Press)

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear Parishioners,  
On behalf of Fr. Sami Bakhit, Msgr. Fady Boktor, the parish staff, and myself; with a heart full of joy and gratitude to God and the Blessed Mother Mary, we thank you for all that you have done for our church this year.

At the time of my arrival a year and a half ago, I asked you to accompany me to bring our church to a superior level and to keep dreaming for the parish we envision for our future generations. We have surpassed certain expectations, but the mission is not yet accomplished!

We all know the saying: "where there is a will, there is a way". So let us keep that dream alive and together with God's help we will succeed. Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy New Year. (Fr. Carlos Sierra Tobon)

## FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO

Please join us for a special celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño to be held on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> (Rosary at 11 am and Mass at 11:30 am). A pot-luck lunch will be held in the parish hall after Mass and procession. Everyone is invited.

## PARISH DONATION ENVELOPES 2024

Envelopes for the year 2024 are available in the parish hall. They are arranged numerically. Refer to the binder provided for your name or number. We appreciate your support.

## TORONTO SERRA CLUB: VOCATION

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!" and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email: vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

## SHARELIFE

Thank you to everyone for their contribution to this year's campaign as we have exceeded our parish goal. The total amount collected is \$74,816.00 (our goal was \$70,000.00).

## NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

### Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

7:45 am, 9:00 am Italian, 10:30 am, 12 Noon

7:00 pm Mass followed by Adoration

### CHAPEL CLOSING

Our chapel will close at 4:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup>. The chapel will be open on New Year's Day with the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closing at 12 Noon on December 29<sup>th</sup> and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

### Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Theresa Burns, Noemy Pereira, Clint Viegas, Lisa Petriglia, Samuel Cordeiro, Arthur Ruston, Raphael Colaco, Gianfranco, Dana McGrath, Roman Joe Zakrajse, Enzo, Domenica, Teresa Pirrello, Margaret Speciale, Joe Simardone, Sergio Rea, Margaret Ramjattan, Rosa Natale, Christina Vitale, Jose Vaz, Karen Radecky, Carla Chiulli, John Stibler, Graziella Marcoccia, Katherine Idzik, Domenico Loprevite, Maria Bellissimo, Melodee Purpura, Jane Delgado, Ramon Ortiz, Ines Granda

## EXERCISE CLASS 55 PLUS

New members are welcome to join the class every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Exercises include stretching, balancing and low-impact aerobics. Classes will resume on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> in our parish hall.

## EUCHRE CLUB

Join us for euchre every Tuesday at 1:00 pm starting on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall and connect with people who share the same interests. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon & a little friendly competition.

## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

A Pre-Authorized Giving plan (PAG) helps support the parish's work through your regular offertory gift. Parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-Authorized Giving allows you to donate to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly into the parish's account. There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish.

### Advantages for You:

- The convenience of having your offering automatically contributed to the parish.
- Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away.
- Continual support of ministries and programs funded through the parish.

### Advantages for the Parish:

- Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
- Reduction of cash on hand. • Reduction of paperwork.

For information on how to enrol, please contact your parish office or email development@archtoronto.org

## CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass. All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage). For questions, please email [formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

## INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND UPDATE

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include the **Native Peoples' Mission** located in Toronto, Ontario that will receive \$150,000 over five years to expand programs and outreach of the mission.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit [www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation](http://www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation)

## MEDITAZIONE SPIRITUALE

**La famiglia, la prima Chiesa** - La famiglia di Nazareth è Santa perché incentrata su Gesù: per questo è unica, unita da un amore immenso e da un'altrettanto immensa fiducia in Dio; il suo messaggio è un messaggio di fede piena, di abbandono alla volontà del Signore. Come ogni mamma e ogni papà, anche le attenzioni di Maria e Giuseppe sono rivolte con premura a Gesù, ma nella consapevolezza che il figlio appartiene a Dio e che loro sono i custodi della sua vita. Come loro, tutti i genitori sono custodi della vita dei figli, non proprietari, e devono aiutarli a crescere, a maturare. Come tutti i genitori del mondo, Maria e Giuseppe crescono assieme a Gesù, come famiglia, nell'amore reciproco e nell'apertura fiduciosa a Dio che è la sorgente della vita. Questa, infatti, è la prima missione che viene affidata alla famiglia: creare le condizioni favorevoli per la crescita armonica dei figli, affinché questi possano vivere una vita buona, degna del Signore e costruttiva per il mondo. Questa speciale comunità di vita e amore che è la famiglia, dunque, come afferma Papa Francesco, è chiamata a essere "chiesa domestica" per far risplendere le virtù evangeliche e diventare fermento di bene nella società.

(Roberta Barbi, Vatican News)

## INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday December 31</b> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
7:45 am	All living & deceased members of our Parish
9:00 am	All living & deceased members of our Parish
10:30 am	All living & deceased members of our Parish
12:00 pm	All living & deceased members of our Parish
4:00 pm	All living & deceased members of our Parish
7:00 pm	All living & deceased members of our Parish
<b>Monday January 1</b> The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	
7:45 am	All living & deceased members of our Parish
9:00 am	† Girolama Cangemi, Deceased Members of the Filangi, Trelle & Andrade Families, † Maria Ciccone, † Felice Labrozzi
10:30 am	† Wayne Dishart, † Matthew Dishart, † Lily Castelino, † George Mydlak
12:00 pm	† Hector Bobadilla
7:00 pm	Deceased members of the Sierra Tobon & Bakhit Families
<b>Tuesday January 2</b> Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	
9:30 am	† Mary & Kenneth Falzon, † Natasha Raciopa † Teresa Jung, † Susana Jung, † Magdalena Jang, A. Falzon (L)
<b>Wednesday January 3</b> Christmas Weekday / The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
9:30 am	† Francesco & Bruno Bellissimo, Aniela Kunciatas (L), Bill Bennett (L)
<b>Thursday January 4</b> Christmas Weekday	
9:30 am	† Caetano & Ruth Ratos, † Marcello Mastrella, † Anthony Misquitta, A Special Intention of Teresa Silva
<b>Friday January 5</b> Christmas Weekday	
9:30 am	† Mary & Kenneth Falzon, † Natasha Raciopa, † Robert Pereira, A Special Blessing for Anthony Falzon
<b>Saturday January 6</b> Christmas Weekday / Saint André Bessette, Religious	
9:30 am	† Giselda & Giuseppe Greco, † Fr. Franco Ieraldi
3:30 pm	Mass at Parkland Retirement Home
4:30 pm	Confession
5:30 pm	† Walter Ryan, † John & Simon Dias, † Pravin & Nisha Fernandes
<b>Sunday January 7</b> The Epiphany of the Lord	
7:45 am	All living & deceased members of our parish
9:00 am	† Giacomo Giorgio, † Francesco Lenoci, † Michele & Gaetana Di Leo, † Maria Morano, † Giovanni Tari, A Special Blessing for Josie
10:30 am	† George Fernandez, † Nicola Biancofiore, † Paul Fantauzzi
12:00 pm	† Domenic, Frank, & Natale D'Urzo, † Carlo Borrelli
1:30 pm	IGBO Mass
7:00 pm	† Donald Biastampillai, † Charles & Joan Kelly
8:00 pm	Adoration (with ½ hour Meditation)

## NOVENA FOR CANCER

All are welcome to join us for Mass every Tuesday at 9:30 am. After the Mass, we will pray a novena to Saint Michael of the Saints: A Trinitarian mystic and patron saint of cancer patients. We will pray for all who are affected by cancer and pray for prevention of getting this illness.

## CHAPEL ADORATION

Our parish is honoured with an opportunity to have an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours/day, 7 days/week exposed in our chapel for the last 21 years. If you would like to commit one hour a week or be a "backup", please leave your name and contact number in the parish office. All are welcome to come and pray.




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